

Appendix B: Potential Funding Sources for Trails in Nevada

Assembly Bill-9 (AB 9)

Assembly Bill-9 (Which is also referred to as “Question 1”) was a landmark environmental initiative designed to benefit, protect, and preserve Nevada’s natural resources. It authorized the state to issue general obligation bonds up to \$200 million for natural resource projects. Funds generated by the bond sales are used to conserve valuable environmental assets as well as support recreational and cultural facilities throughout Nevada.

An amount of \$7,250,000 is available to state agencies, counties, municipalities or private nonprofit organizations that qualify for grants pursuant to the regulations adopted by the Administrator of the Division of State Lands pursuant, as appropriate, for the construction of recreational trails, including, without limitation, hiking, equestrian and bicycle trails. The award of grants pursuant to this subparagraph must be coordinated with the Division of State Parks.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) Act of 1965 was enacted "...to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations... such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation...." This federal program provides matching grants to states and through the states to local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

The L&WCF program provides 50:50 matching grants to States and through States to local governments and Native American tribes, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Financial assistance is available through the L&WCF to provide most facilities necessary for the use and enjoyment of outdoor recreation areas. Funding of development proposals may cover construction, renovation, site planning, demolition, site preparation, and architectural/ engineering services.

Examples of development projects include: sports & play fields, picnic facilities, trails, swimming facilities, boating facilities, fishing/hunting facilities, winter sports facilities, campgrounds, outdoor exhibits, spectator facilities, community gardens, major renovation or redevelopment of recreation facilities, provision of access to recreation facilities for persons with disabilities, and outdoor zoos. The funds can also be utilized for recreation support facilities such as access roads, parking, walkways, restrooms, utilities, visitor or interpretive centers and pavilions. Although swimming pools and golf courses are technically eligible, these particular project categories are not advised since they have attracted opposition by certain members of Congress.

Also eligible is the acquisition of lands and waters for public outdoor recreation, including new areas or additions to existing parks, forests, wildlife areas, beaches and other similar areas dedicated to outdoor recreation. In Nevada, there have been 270 projects funded by Land and Water Conservation Fund since 1965.

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a Federal-aid assistance program to help States provide and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail use. The program provides funding for all kinds of recreational trail uses, such as pedestrian uses (hiking, running, wheelchair use), bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-highway motorized vehicles.